

CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

- 1 1. A method for providing notification of a privacy level, comprising:
2 determining a plurality of levels of privacy;
3 determining one of said plurality of privacy levels that applies to a first
4 interaction conducted by a user; and
5 providing a notification of said one of said plurality of privacy levels to
6 said user.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a plurality of levels of privacy
2 includes at least one of the following:
3 establishing said plurality of privacy levels;
4 receiving an indication of said plurality of privacy levels;
5 selecting said plurality of privacy levels from privacy levels previously
6 indicated by said user to be acceptable to said user;
7 selecting said plurality of privacy levels from privacy levels previously
8 indicated to be acceptable to a party involved in said first interaction;
9 receiving an indication from said user of a group of privacy levels
10 acceptable to said user and selecting said plurality of privacy levels from said
11 group of privacy levels;
12 receiving an indication from a party involved in said first interaction of a
13 group of privacy levels acceptable to said party and selecting said plurality of
14 privacy levels from said group of privacy levels;
15 receiving a request from a party to conduct each interaction involving said
16 party in accordance with at least one of said plurality of privacy levels; and

17 receiving a request from said user to conduct each interaction involving
18 said user in accordance with at least one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining one of said plurality of privacy
2 levels that applies to a first interaction conducted by a user includes at least one of the
3 following:

4 determining if any of said plurality of privacy levels were previously
5 indicated by said user as being acceptable;

6 determining if any of said plurality of privacy levels were previously
7 indicated as being acceptable by a party involved in said transaction;

8 identifying at least one privacy level from said plurality of privacy levels
9 that was applied during a previous interaction involving said user;

10 identifying at least one privacy level from said plurality of privacy levels
11 that was applied during a previous interaction involving a party involved in said
12 first interaction;

13 providing an indication to said user of a selection of said one of said
14 plurality of privacy levels and receiving from said user a consent to conduct said
15 first interaction in accordance with said selected one of said plurality of privacy
16 levels;

17 providing an indication to a party involved in said interaction of a
18 selection of said one of said plurality of privacy levels and receiving from said
19 party a consent to conduct said first interaction in accordance with said selected
20 one of said plurality of privacy levels;

21 receiving a request from said user to conduct said first interaction in
22 accordance with said one of said plurality of privacy levels;

23 receiving a request from said user to conduct said first interaction in
24 accordance with a minimum privacy requirement and determining one of said
25 plurality of privacy levels that at least meets said minimum requirement; and

26 receiving a request from said user to conduct said first interaction in
27 accordance with a specific requirement and determining one of said plurality of
28 privacy levels that complies with said specific requirement.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said providing a notification of said one of said
2 plurality of privacy levels to said user includes at least one of the following:

3 providing said notification as said user conducts said first interaction;
4 providing said notification prior to said user conducting said first
5 interaction;

6 providing said notification after said user conducts said first interaction;
7 providing an indication to said user of a selection of said one of said
8 plurality of privacy levels and receiving from said user a consent to conduct said
9 first interaction in accordance with said selected one of said plurality of privacy
10 levels;

11 providing said notification prior to providing a Web page associated with
12 said first interaction;

13 providing said notification prior to allowing said user to receive a Web
14 page associated with said first interaction;

15 delaying said first interaction until said user receives said notification;
16 delaying said first interaction until said user confirms receipt of said
17 notification;

18 delaying said first interaction until said user consents to said one of said
19 plurality of privacy levels;

20 providing said notification to a device associated with said user;

21 providing said notification to a device being used by said user during said
22 first interaction; and

23 providing a communication indicative of said one of said plurality of
24 privacy levels to software being used by said user during said first interaction.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said first interaction conducted by a user includes
2 at least one of the following:

3 said user conducting a transaction with a service provider;
4 said user making a purchase;
5 said user accessing a Web site;
6 said user using a feature of a Web site;
7 said user downloading data from a Web site; and
8 said user providing data to a Web site.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said notification includes at least one of the
2 following:

3 an identifier associated with said user;
4 an identifier associated with said first interaction;
5 a privacy level identifier;
6 a cookie;
7 information regarding said plurality of privacy levels;
8 information regarding said one of said plurality of privacy levels;
9 a message indicative of said one of said plurality of privacy levels;
10 a message displayable by software operating on a device used by said user
11 during said first interaction;
12 an image displayable by software operating on a device used by said user
13 during said first interaction; and
14 an image indicative of said one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of the following:
2 receiving a confirmation of receipt of said notification by said user;
3 receiving a confirmation of receipt of said notification by a device
4 associated with said user;

5 receiving a confirmation of receipt of said notification by software used by
6 said user during said first interaction.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving a notification indicative of a change of level of privacy during
3 said first interaction.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving a request to change a level of privacy associated with said first
3 interaction.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of levels of privacy
2 includes at least one of the following:
3 a requirement that said user be informed of data received by a party
4 involved in said first interaction;
5 a requirement that said user be informed of a retention of data received by
6 a party involved in said first interaction;
7 a requirement that said user be informed of a use of data received by a
8 party involved in said first interaction; and
9 a requirement that said user be informed of a disclosure of data received
10 by a party involved in said first interaction.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing said notification to a party involved in said first interaction.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of privacy levels is
2 based on, at least in part, at least one of the following:
3 a request received from said user prior to said first interaction;
4 a request received from said user during said first interaction;

5 a request received from a service provider involved in said first
6 interaction;
7 a type of data that may be provided during an interaction;
8 a type of data that may be provided by said user;
9 a type of data that may be received during an interaction;
10 a use of data provided by said user;
11 a request from said user regarding data provided by said user during said
12 first interaction;
13 a requirement of said user regarding data provided by said user during said
14 first interaction;
15 a disclosure of data provided by said user;
16 a party to which data received from a user may be provided; and
17 a use of data provided by said user.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 storing data received during said first interaction in accordance with said
3 one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 using data received during said first interaction in accordance with said
3 one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 providing data received during said first interaction to a party in
3 accordance with said one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 deleting data received during said first interaction in accordance with said
3 one of said plurality of privacy levels.

- 1 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 collecting data during said first interaction in accordance with said one of
3 said plurality of privacy levels.
- 1 18. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining a second of said plurality of privacy levels that applies to a
3 second interaction conducted by said user; and
4 providing a notification of said second of said plurality of privacy levels to
5 said user.
- 1 19. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 changing a level of privacy applied to said first interaction during said first
3 interaction; and
4 providing a notification to said user of a change in level of privacy applied
5 to said first interaction.
- 1 20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 conducting said first interaction in accordance with said one of said
3 plurality of privacy levels.
- 1 21. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 terminating said first interaction if said first interaction cannot be
3 conducted in accordance with said one of said plurality of privacy levels.
- 1 22. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing a notification to said user if said first interaction cannot be
3 conducted in accordance with said one of said plurality of privacy levels.
- 1 23. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 allowing said user to modify at least one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 24. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 modifying at least one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 25. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining one of a plurality of privacy

2 levels that applies to a first interaction occurs during said interaction.

1 26. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining one of a plurality of privacy

2 levels that applies to a first interaction occurs after said interaction.

1 27. The method of claim 1, wherein said providing a notification of said one of said

2 plurality of privacy levels occurs during said interaction.

1 28. The method of claim 1, wherein said providing a notification of said one of said

2 plurality of privacy levels occurs after said interaction.

1 29. A method for providing notification of a privacy level, comprising:

2 determining an interaction associated with a user;

3 determining one of a plurality of privacy levels that is associated with said
4 interaction; and

5 providing a notification of said one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said determining an interaction associated with
2 a user includes at least one of the following:

3 receiving a request from said user to conduct said interaction;

4 receiving an indication that said user has commenced said interaction;

5 receiving an indication of said interaction from said user; and

6 receiving an indication of said interaction from a service provider involved
7 in said interaction.

1 31. The method of claim 29, wherein determining one of a plurality of privacy levels
2 associated with said interaction includes at least one of the following:

3 determining if any of said plurality of privacy levels were previously
4 indicated by said user as being acceptable;

5 determining if any of said plurality of privacy levels were previously
6 indicated as being acceptable by a party involved in said transaction;

7 identifying at least one privacy level from said plurality of privacy levels
8 that was applied during a previous interaction involving said user;

9 identifying at least one privacy level from said plurality of privacy levels
10 that was applied during a previous interaction involving a party involved in said
11 first interaction;

12 providing an indication to said user of a selection of said one of said
13 plurality of privacy levels and receiving from said user a consent to conduct said
14 first interaction in accordance with said selected one of said plurality of privacy
15 levels;

16 providing an indication to a party involved in said interaction of a
17 selection of said one of said plurality of privacy levels and receiving from said
18 party a consent to conduct said first interaction in accordance with said selected
19 one of said plurality of privacy levels;

20 receiving a request from said user to conduct said first interaction in
21 accordance with said one of said plurality of privacy levels;

22 receiving a request from said user to conduct said first interaction in
23 accordance with a minimum privacy requirement and determining one of said
24 plurality of privacy levels that at least meets said minimum requirement; and

25 receiving a request from said user to conduct said first interaction in
26 accordance with a specific requirement and determining one of said plurality of
27 privacy levels that complies with said specific requirement.

1 32. The method of claim 29, wherein said providing a notification of said one of said
2 plurality of privacy levels includes at least one of the following:

- 3 providing said notification to said user;
- 4 providing said notification to a party involved in said interaction;
- 5 providing said notification to a party not involved in said interaction.

1 33. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
2 establishing said plurality of privacy levels.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein said establishing said plurality of privacy levels
2 includes at least one of the following:

- 3 receiving an indication of said plurality of privacy levels;
- 4 selecting said plurality of privacy levels from privacy levels previously
5 indicated by said user to be acceptable to said user;
- 6 selecting said plurality of privacy levels from privacy levels previously
7 indicated to be acceptable to a party involved in said first interaction;
- 8 receiving an indication from said user of a group of privacy levels
9 acceptable to said user and selecting said plurality of privacy levels from said
10 group of privacy levels;
- 11 receiving an indication from a party involved in said first interaction of a
12 group of privacy levels acceptable to said party and selecting said plurality of
13 privacy levels from said group of privacy levels;
- 14 receiving a request from a party to conduct each interaction involving said
15 party in accordance with at least one of said plurality of privacy levels; and

16 receiving a request from said user to conduct each interaction involving
17 said user in accordance with at least one of said plurality of privacy levels.

1 35. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
2 conducting said interaction in accordance with said one of said plurality of
3 privacy levels.

1 36. The method of claim 29, wherein said determining one of a plurality of privacy
2 levels that is associated with said interaction occurs during said interaction.

1 37. The method of claim 29, wherein said determining one of a plurality of privacy
2 levels that is associated with said interaction occurs after said interaction.

1 38. The method of claim 29, wherein said providing a notification of said one of said
2 plurality of privacy levels occurs during said interaction.

1 39. The method of claim 29, wherein said providing a notification of said one of said
2 plurality of privacy levels occurs after said interaction.

1 40. A method for providing notification of a privacy level, comprising:
2 determining a privacy level;
3 making a determination as to whether a party involved in an interaction
4 with a user complies with said privacy level; and
5 providing a notification regarding said determination.

1 41. The method of claim 40, wherein said determining a privacy level includes at
2 least one of the following:
3 determining a privacy level indicated by said party as applying to said
4 interaction;

5 receiving an indication from said party that said interaction was conducted
6 in accordance with said privacy level;

7 receiving an indication from said party that said interaction is being
8 conducted in accordance with said privacy level;

9 selecting said privacy requirement from a plurality of privacy
10 requirements;

11 receiving a request from said party to conduct all interactions involving
12 said party in accordance with said privacy level;

13 receiving a request from said party to conduct said interaction in
14 accordance with said privacy level;

15 receiving a request from said party to conduct said interaction in
16 accordance with a minimum privacy requirement; and

17 receiving a request from said party to conduct said interaction in
18 accordance with a specific privacy requirement.

19 receiving a request from said party to conduct all interactions involving
20 said party in accordance with said privacy level;

21 receiving a request from a user to conduct said interaction in accordance
22 with said privacy level;

23 receiving a request from a user to conduct interaction in accordance with
24 a minimum privacy requirement; and

25 receiving a request from a user to conduct said interaction in accordance
26 with a specific privacy requirement.

1 42. The method of claim 40, wherein said making a determination as to whether a
2 party involved in an interaction with a user complies with said privacy level includes at
3 least one of the following:

4 determining if said party provided proper notification of said privacy level
5 during said interaction;

6 making said determination during said interaction;

7 making said determination after said interaction is completed;
8 determining if said party's use of data received during said interaction
9 complies with said privacy level;
10 determining if said party's storage of data received during said interaction
11 complies with said privacy level;
12 determining if said party's collection of data during said interaction
13 complies with said privacy level;
14 determining if said party's transmission of data during said interaction
15 complies with said privacy level; and
16 determining if said party's reception of data during said interaction
17 complies with said privacy level.

1 43. The method of claim 40, wherein said providing a notification regarding said
2 determination includes at least one of the following:

3 providing a notification during said interaction that said party is not
4 complying with said privacy level;
5 providing a notification after said interaction that said party did not
6 comply with said privacy level during said interaction;
7 providing a notification after said interaction that said party did comply
8 with said privacy level during said interaction;
9 providing a notification during said interaction that said party is
10 complying with said privacy level;
11 allowing said user involved to retrieve information regarding said
12 determination;
13 providing a notification that said party exceeds said privacy level if said
14 party does, in fact, exceed said privacy level according to said determination;
15 providing a notification that said party does not exceed said privacy level
16 if said party does not, in fact, exceed said privacy level according to said
17 determination;

18 providing said notification to a user involved in said interaction during
19 said interaction;
20 providing said notification to a user involved in said interaction after said
21 interaction; and
22 providing said notification to said party.

1 44. The method of claim 40, further comprising:
2 receiving an indication that said user is conducting said interaction.

1 45. A computer program in a computer readable medium for providing notification of
2 a privacy level, comprising:
3 first instructions for receiving data indicative of a level of privacy
4 involved in an interaction; and
5 second instructions for displaying on a device a notification indicative of
6 said level of privacy.

1 46. The computer program of claim 45, wherein said level of privacy is one of a
2 plurality of possible levels of privacy for which notifications can be displayed on said
3 device.

1 47. A system for providing notification of a privacy level, comprising:
2 a memory;
3 a communication port; and
4 a processor connected to said memory and said communication port, said
5 processor being operative to:
6 determine a plurality of levels of privacy;
7 determine one of said plurality of privacy levels that applies to a
8 first interaction conducted by a user; and

9 provide a notification regarding said one of said plurality of
10 privacy levels to said user.

1 48. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for providing a
2 notification of a privacy level, comprising:
3 first instructions for identifying a plurality of levels of privacy;
4 second instructions for identifying one of said plurality of privacy levels
5 that applies to a first interaction conducted by a user; and
6 third instructions for sending a notification regarding said one of said
7 plurality of privacy levels to said user.

1 49. A system for providing notification of a privacy level, comprising:
2 a memory;
3 a communication port; and
4 a processor connected to said memory and said communication port, said
5 processor being operative to:
6 determine an interaction associated with a user;
7 determine one of a plurality of privacy levels that is associated
8 with said interaction; and
9 provide a notification regarding said one of said plurality of
10 privacy levels.

1 50. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for providing a
2 notification of a privacy level, comprising:
3 first instructions for identifying an interaction associated with a user;
4 second instructions for identifying one of a plurality of privacy levels that
5 is associated with said interaction; and
6 third instructions for sending a notification regarding said one of said
7 plurality of privacy levels.